

Mr. Speaker, the Monmouth County AUSA chapter takes to heart and gives all they have to live up to their inspiring motto: "A Voice for the Army—Support for the Soldier." Given its current leadership and unyielding drive to serve in a manner consistent with its roots in the United States Army, there is little doubt that the chapter's ongoing work will lead to consideration for another banner in 2018 and in the years ahead.

I thank all the members of the AUSA Monmouth Chapter for their continued hard work, dedication, commitment and outstanding contributions in the service of America's men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING PEYTON SOPIARS  
FOR HIS 1A STATE TITLE IN THE  
TRIPLE JUMP

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peyton Sopiars, a sophomore from Galva High School, for earning the Class 1A title for the Illinois State Championship in triple jump for track and field.

Peyton Sopiars won triple jump gold with a leap of 45-0 3/4 to claim his title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Peyton for his tremendous accomplishment. Peyton's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. Peyton is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Galva throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Peyton Sopiars on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT EM-  
PLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 20  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mario Valdez, Jeff Peterson, Joyce Thomas, Tamra Oliver, Nancy Beran, Amanda Peterson, Brenda Wandling, Bessie Neal, Leslie McDowell, Bridgett Bullard, Cindy Haley, Alma Cruz, Cheryl Brimhall, James Nagai, Gloria Daniels, Lisa McKey, Tandra Burns, Pamela Berdou and Lisa Rose for their 20 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Each of these wonderful Lamar CISD employees have worked for the school district for twenty years. They were recently recognized by the school district for their dedication to our children and our schools. Their tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset for our students and our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again

to these exceptional employees for 20 years with Lamar CISD. I thank them for their commitment to education and to our kids.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
FRANK E. VERDUGO ON THE OC-  
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  
FROM THE MILITARY AFTER 20  
YEARS

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Frank E. Verdugo on the occasion of his retirement from 20 years of outstanding commitment through military service to this country. He is the son of Lydia Wibert, former City Councilwoman in Fontana.

Staff Sergeant Verdugo has had a remarkable career with our armed forces. He began his military career with the U.S. Marine Corps, serving from 1994–1998. He went on to serve in the Army Reserve from 1998–2002, where he was based in San Antonio. He transitioned to full time service when he entered the Army on August 1st of 2002 for his second time on active duty. Like many brave and selfless individuals, he did so as a result of the events that transpired on September 11, 2001.

Throughout his career, Staff Sergeant Verdugo has been assigned to a full range of important roles and has been stationed in many locations around the country including Fort Lewis, Fort Knox, Fort Bliss, and Fort Benning. Shortly after joining the Army, he was deployed twice to Iraq, from 2003–2004 and 2006–2007.

While Staff Sergeant Verdugo has immeasurable achievements and awards that speak to his character, perhaps the most significant contribution and legacy he has made is by helping train the next generation of leaders. He was part of the Army's first Stryker Brigade at Fort Lewis and was assigned as a Stryker instructor at Fort Knox. Because of Staff Sergeant Verdugo's experience, he served in several critical leadership roles while at Fort Bliss, where he tested new equipment and networks for the Army, and at Fort Benning, where he was a fire range trainer.

Staff Sergeant Verdugo has selflessly given of himself to this country while raising a family. He is married to Maria E. Verdugo and is the father of four children.

As Staff Sergeant Verdugo's long and honorable military career comes to a close, he is beginning a new chapter in his life. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security from Vincennes University, further illustrating that while he may not be in the military anymore, his commitment to working hard on issues like national security is enduring.

For his many years of selfless service to our nation, I would like to recognize and thank Staff Sergeant Frank E. Verdugo.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST-EVER  
INTERNATIONAL NASH AWARE-  
NESS DAY

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about a silent killer that has quickly grown into a public health crisis endangering the lives of millions of Americans.

Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, known as NASH, is a metabolic disease that, if left untreated, can lead to non-alcoholic cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer, and even death. The disease is estimated to affect between 3 and 12 percent of all American adults—including as many as 70,000 of my constituents.

There are only a few physicians in Congress, and although our constituencies differ, we share a profound and personal connection to the individuals we serve. We also share an understanding that when a threat of this magnitude arises, we must take proactive steps to effectively diagnose and treat the disease.

The most difficult part is that NASH is "silent"; it does not present symptoms until late in the disease's progression. Most Americans with NASH in my district and across the country don't even know they have it.

There is no approved cure for NASH and no alternative to an invasive and painful liver biopsy to diagnose the disease, and researchers have yet to get a full understanding of what causes it. With more research and professional awareness, we can start to improve early detection and halt disease progression while waiting for approved effective treatments.

This past Tuesday, June 12, marked the first-ever International NASH Day. Medical experts in seven cities across the U.S. joined over 20 international experts in the field of NASH to educate potential patients and other interested stakeholders to increase awareness and improve health outcomes.

I ask my colleagues—physician or not—to remain vigilant and work to improve access to information about this disease, ensure access to healthcare, and provide adequate funding levels for research and care. It is the right prescription for a better, stronger, and healthier America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF  
SHELBY, NEW YORK

**HON. CHRIS COLLINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Shelby, New York. The history of this town has been molded by resilient and innovative individuals who worked persistently to make Shelby the place it is today.

The Bicentennial presents an opportunity for the residents of Shelby to reflect on their fascinating history and to envision the endless possibilities of the future. In 1812, Joseph Ellicott, an agent for the Holland Land Company, purchased 700 acres of farmland in the

Town of Shelby. He and his nephew, Colonel Andrew Ellicott built a saw mill and a year later the first grist mill, while also improving the water supply in the town. The residents were happy to welcome this innovative family into their community. The Ellicott's played a significant role in the early founding of the Town of Shelby and left a lasting impact that would allow it to thrive for over two centuries.

On this historic day, I would like to formally congratulate the Town of Shelby on its 200th Anniversary. In 1818, Shelby was officially founded thanks to the Ellicott family's industrious attitude. To this day, Shelby is still a strong farming community in Western New York.

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Diana Martinez, Tracy Madrigal, Becky Guntle, Sandra Leal, Carole Serna, Juan Nava, Kimberly Reyhons, Lorenzo Longoria and Pamela Clayton for their 25 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Diana, Tracy, Becky, Sandra, Carole, Juan, Kimberly, Lorenzo and Pamela have each worked for the school district for twenty five years. They were recently recognized by Lamar CISD for their dedication to our children and our schools. Their tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset for our students and our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to these exceptional employees for 25 years with Lamar CISD. I thank them for their commitment to education and to our kids.

HONORING FLAG DAY

**HON. DON BACON**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Flag Day; the day in 1777 that the Second Continental Congress adopted the red, white and blue. Old Glory as we call her, flies proudly across our country and represents the home of the free and the brave. As the song 'Grand Old Flag' says, the flag is the "emblem of the land I love."

I love the land that I protected in uniform for nearly 30 years. The land that has given me freedom of speech and religion. The land that has allowed me to work hard in a profession of my choice and provide for my family.

It's also the land that encourages our youth to be proud of our flag. In fact, two young patriotic friends of mine are sharing their love for Old Glory by encouraging youth in America to host Flag Day events. William and Morgan Iler, who are eleven and seven respectively, are encouraging states to host events in their state, where children will get together at their

own event and read the Declaration of Independence. As the next generation stands for liberty, they are showing Americans that we are the greatest nation in the world. By doing this on Flag Day they are also recognizing that Old Glory is the symbol of freedom, recognizing the home of the free and the brave.

I salute and recognize these young patriots and other children who are participating in this event to recognize the red, white and blue and the freedoms she represents.

RECOGNIZING NICK ALLEN, NATHAN MICKLEY, KEEGAN ANDERSON, AND KOBY BRACKEMEYER FOR THEIR 1A STATE TITLE IN THE 4X800 RELAY

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate sophomores Nick Allen, Nathan Mickley, Keegan Anderson, and Koby Brackemeyer from Morrison High School, for earning the Class 1A title for the Illinois State Championship in the 4x800 relay.

Nick Allen, Nathan Mickley, Keegan Anderson, and Koby Brackemeyer took first in finals with a time of 8:00.59 clocking to claim their title as state champions, and I would like to recognize them for their tremendous accomplishment. Their dedication and passion for their sport meant that they were determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. They are an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see them represent Morrison throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Nick Allen, Nathan Mickley, Keegan Anderson, and Koby Brackemeyer on their title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing them every success in the future.

MRS. ELVIRA ORTIZ 100 YEARS OLD

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of the 35th District, Mrs. Elvira Ortiz of Chino, California in celebration of her 100th birthday.

Elvira was born July 9, 1918 in Chino, California, and has resided there for most of her life. Having lived in her same home for sixty years, she has made precious memories with her loved ones in Chino.

As Elvira celebrates her 100th birthday, she has much to be proud of. Elvira's husband, the late Jesus Pacheco Ortiz, was her hero. Jesus was in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He participated in air combat as a tail gunner as well as other positions on his aircraft. At one point, Jesus's aircraft was shot down over Europe and survived only because of the graciousness of a group of farmers who hid him and his crew.

Elvira is devoted to her family and is loved and cherished by them in return. She and Jesus had four wonderful children, Lucille (deceased), Olivia, Michael, and George. She's held many titles over her long life, but the one she is most proud of is grandmother and great-grandmother.

Mrs. Ortiz has been a valuable member of her community. She is a practicing Catholic and has always devoted her extra time to her local church, Saint Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Chino, California.

Having lived in Chino for almost all her life, Elvira has seen many, many positive changes take place in the area, including the tremendous growth and improvement of the Ontario International Airport.

Her one hundred years is a testament to the "greatest generation" that ever lived in these United States of America. I am happy to wish Mrs. Elvira Ortiz a happy 100th birthday.

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sandra Guyton, Adrianna Zamora and Gay Clark for their 30 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Sandra, Adrianna and Gay have each worked for the school district for thirty years. They were recently recognized by Lamar CISD for their dedication to our children and our schools. Their tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset for our students and our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sandra Guyton, Adrianna Zamora and Gay Clark on 30 years with Lamar CISD. I thank them for their commitment to education and to our kids.

HONORING MS. LISA SIMS

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 14, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gillsville's Lisa Sims for the perseverance she has demonstrated in her battle against multiple sclerosis.

In 1997, the doctor diagnosed Lisa with MS, an incurable disease that causes the body's immune system to attack the central nervous system. She left the doctor's office that day understanding that she would become paralyzed from the waist down.

Despite her diagnosis, Lisa has never stopped fighting MS and can still walk today.

She tried various medications and weight loss programs over the years, which initially gave her hope. Ultimately, Lisa realized she needed to incorporate exercise into her daily routine.

She joined a gym three years ago, and, since then, she has regained most of her